

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE PATENT APPLICATION OF: ITO et al.  
SERIAL NO.: 10/767,397  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 009270-0307943  
FILING DATE: January 30, 2004  
CONFIRMATION NO.: 2672  
ART UNIT: 3663  
EXAMINER: MONDT, JOHANNES P  
FOR: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR EXECUTING AN OPERATION IN A PRESSURE VESSEL OF A NUCLEAR REACTOR

---

COMMENTS ON EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

**Mail Stop Issue Fee**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the Notice of Allowability dated March 10, 2010, consideration of the following comments are respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of the allowed claims are patentable for their respective recitations of claimed combinations as a whole, without any particular criticality or distinguishing feature being attributable to any one or more of such features, and without any narrowing interpretation being imposed on any of such features. The Applicant respectfully submits that the dependent claims are allowable not only for their dependence on the allowed independent claims, but also for the additional subject matter recited in each of those dependent claims.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP

6/  39328  
E. Rico Hernandez

Reg. No. 47641

Tel. No. (703) 770-7788

Fax No. (703) 770-7901

Date: May 21, 2010  
P.O. Box 10500  
McLean, VA 22102  
(703) 770-7900